

The Honorable Chair
Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: FAVORABLE - SUPPORT of House Bill 1184
Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement
Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)**

To the Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Desiree Mortenson, I am a resident of Frederick County in District 1. I am writing to name my support to HB 1184 the "Civil Actions - Nonprofit Organizations - Unauthorized Support of Israeli Settlement Activity (Not On Our Dime Act)" bill. This bill prohibits nonprofit organizations in Maryland from engaging in or supporting activities that contribute to Israeli settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and which are banned under the Geneva Conventions.

I hold a doctorate in International Relations and have conducted extensive research on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and North Africa. I was deeply shocked and saddened by the violence and loss of life that occurred on October 7, 2023. I have also been deeply troubled by the devastating humanitarian consequences of the ongoing Israel– Hamas war, which has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and widespread suffering among civilians.

House Bill 1184 seeks to ensure that nonprofit organizations operating in Maryland are not used as vehicles to facilitate or finance unauthorized Israeli settlement activity that may be inconsistent with international law or U.S. policy. The legislation reflects a commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible oversight of charitable activity conducted within our state.

Residents of Frederick County and communities across Maryland value respect for human rights, adherence to international law, and the protection of civilians during conflict. Supporting this bill affirms the principle that charitable resources should be used in ways that align with humanitarian values and lawful conduct.

Passage of HB 1184 would allow Maryland to demonstrate leadership in promoting accountability and ethical stewardship within the nonprofit sector. It reflects the commitment of many Maryland residents to peace, responsible governance, and the protection of vulnerable populations worldwide.

For these reasons and many more, **I ask the Judiciary Committee to give HB 1184 a favorable report.**

Thank you for your time,
Dr. Desiree Mortenson
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